

The Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities
Monthly Meeting
November 14, 2018

Welcome and Introductions: Ben Dubin, Vice Chair; Judy Volkman, Commissioner; Deborah Weems, Commissioner; Santa Wallace, Commissioner; Larry Hughes, Commissioner; Carolyn Johnson, Commissioner/WEEMS; Paulette Smoot, Commissioner; Mary Scott, Commissioner; Michael Tan, Commissioner; Douglas Smith, Commissioner/Chimes; Commissioner; Samantha Morlock, Guest/Option Group; Cathy Cross, Guest Speaker/Dept. of Veterans Affairs; Bob Frankel, Arc Baltimore; Imani Brown, Guest/IMAGE Center; Mike Bullis, Commissioner/IMAGE Center; Brian Trees, Guest/Gallagher Services; Kali Malik, Commissioner; Hal Franklin, Guest; Brian Kressman, Guest/BCPS;

Staff: David Skinner

Start: 11:00 a.m.

Speaker: Cathy Cross, Veteran Directed Care Coordinator, Dept. of Veterans Affairs

- Veteran Directed Care
 - The veteran, working with family members, and usually an advisor from the state, develops a “Care Plan” outlining the services, supports, supplies and estimated budget for the veteran to live at home or in the community instead of a nursing home. The name “Care Plan” or “Participant Spending Plan”, changes from state to state but the concept is the same.
 - The veterans submit their Care Plan for approval to the administering agency. The Plan is reviewed and any required modifications, are agreed upon through a collaborative back-and-forth process. In conclusion, a spending budget is established for the veteran.
 - The veteran hires and schedules all care providers, services providers, and necessary supplies. It is very common for a veteran to hire family members, including their spouses, neighbors and / or friends to provide them with personal care. Hired care providers are expected to pay taxes for the wages received.
 - The administering agency provides a Financial Management Service (FMS) that pays for care and issues checks to the service providers and / or reimbursement for goods purchased with pre-approval. Payments made to care and service providers are authorized by both the veteran and the FMS.

Report of the Full Body

- **General Discussion:**
 - Ben Dubin leads the meeting and shares concerns about raising funds for the printing of the 2019 Community Resource Guide, now as a joint effort between CoD and the BaltCo. Dept. of Aging, due to increase in printing costs, and the distribution of the 2019 Resource Guide throughout the County once it is published. Suggests distributions points should be CoD member constituencies and other interested community groups.
 - Mike Bullis questions the yearly frequency of the Resource Guide’s distribution and suggest staggering it by alternating years to reduce production costs. Reminds group that when the CoD published a resource guide independent of the Dept. of Aging it was done once every three years and was more manageably supported by donations from funders, but now worries that increased publication frequency has become too financially burdensome for some funders to continue as they had done in the past. Adds, that the current Resource Guide is also available online.
 - Hal Franklin recounted past Resource Guide distribution trend totals 1st year - 25k, 2nd year – 20k, 3rd year – 15k.
 - Mary Scott suggests that attendees report to her with the number of current 2018 Resource Guides they feel need to be distributed throughout their immediate networks.
 - Ben Dubin recapped 2018 CoD Awards Luncheon citing that the overall response from attendees about the event was very positive, however planning leading up to luncheon could use more refinement.
 - Self Directed services programs

Adjournment: 2:00 pm